Risky Business: Helping Adolescents Manage Risk Taking Behaviors

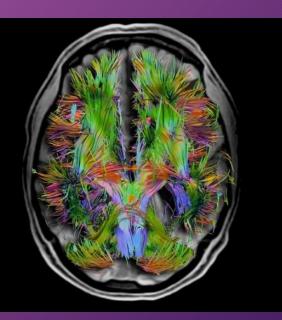
- Michael Nerney and Associates
- PO Box 93, Long Lake, NY 12847
 - 518-624-5351

mcnerneyll@frontiernet.net

New Research on the Adolescent Brain

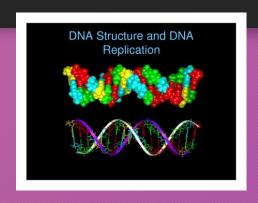
- Discoveries from Neuroimaging
 - fMRI
 - Diffusion Spectrum Imaging
 - SQUID Magnetometry
 - MEG Magnetoencephalography





Who is at Risk?

Genetics



• Environment

Experiences





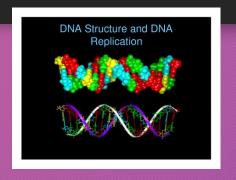
P450 CYP2D6

- Codeine converted to Morphine
- Metabolic function
- Poor
- Effective
- Moderate
- Ultra fast



A Disease of the Brain Who is at Risk?

Genetics





Environment









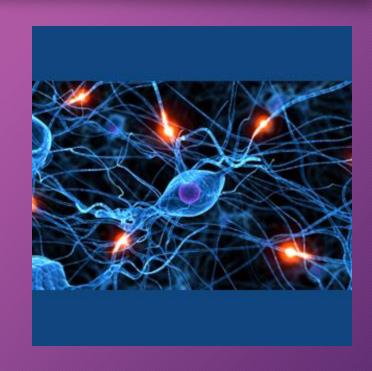




Brain Facts

• 200 Billion Cells

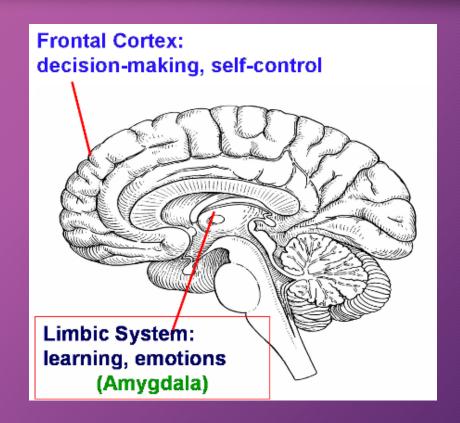
Gray Matter/White Matter



Brain Facts

Jumping Genes

Migration and Activation



Adolescent Hormones

- Testosterone
 - Primary and Secondary Sex Characteristics

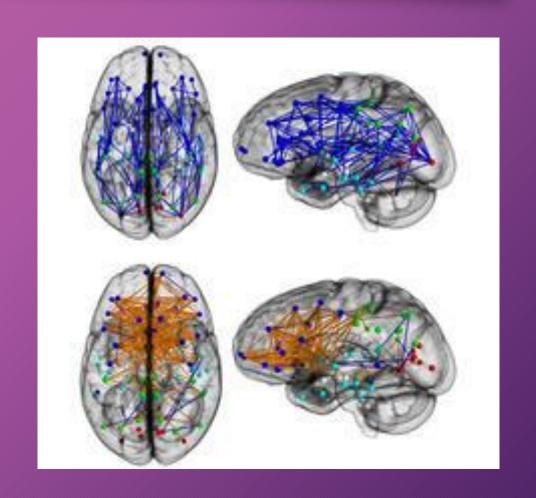


- Estrogen
 - Primary and Secondary Sex Characteristics



Gender Connectome Project

- University of Pennsylvania
 - Raquel and Reuben Gur
 - DTI
 - 949 subjects 521 Females,
 - 428 Males 8-22 years of age
 - Male Brain
 - Female Brain



- Emotional Intensity
 - 2 to 4 Times
 - More Frequent Change
 - Male/Female
- Legitimate/Normal





- Emotional Intensity
 - Mirror, Mirror
 - A/A sites
 - Risk/Reward in Change of Appearance

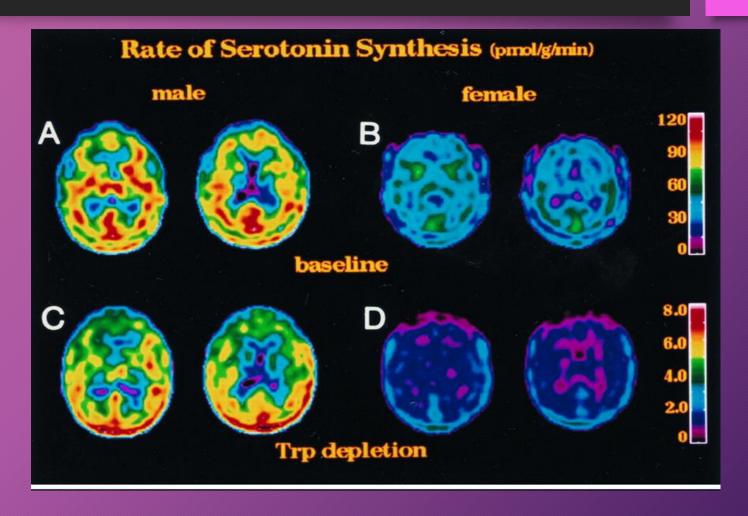
Male/Female Brain Differences





Depression

Serotonin Synthesis

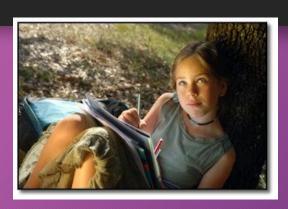


- Problem Solving
 - No Load

Social/Emotional Crisis

The Crisis Chemical THP

Emotional Support Essential





Teens and Conflict

- Migration and Activation
 - Cell Migration
 - L1
 - Benchmarks
 - "I Know!"
 - Open Conflict
- Don't take it personally



Teen Brains and Decisions

- Love to Hate
 - Validate emotions
 - Limit judgement
- That's What I Want
 What is the "reason"?
 If not now, then when
 If not that, then what

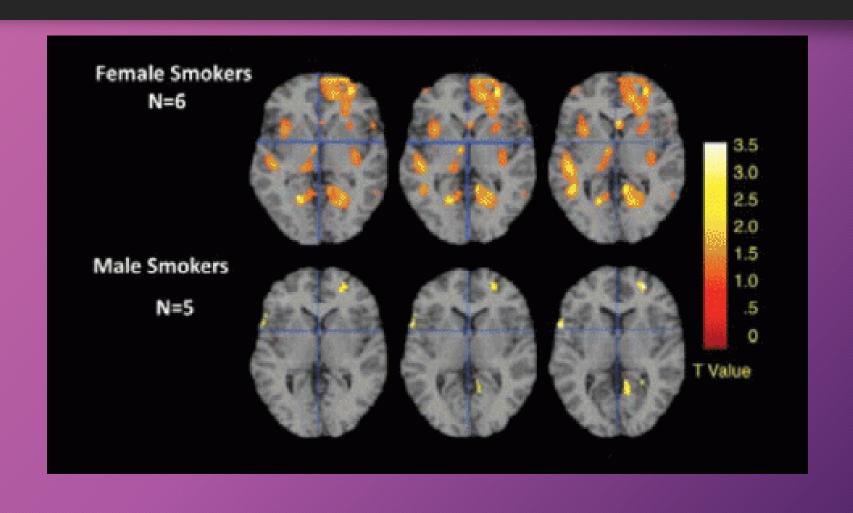


Motivation for Drug Use

- Seek drugs for:
 - Create positive effect in brain chemistry
 - Dopamine release in reward sites
 - Suppress negative emotions
 - Activation in specific sites



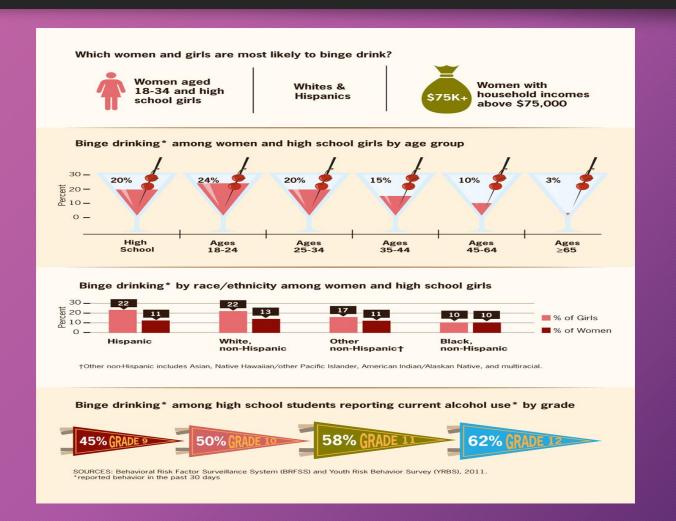
Gender Differences



Most Popular Drugs

- Alcohol, Nicotine and Marijuana
- Pain Pills/Fentanyl
- Heroin
- Often combined use
 - Different risk factors when combined

New Cohort



Brain Facts

- Risk Taking
 - New Sites of Activity
 - Influence of Peers
 - Male/Female



Emotional Reward

I Second That Emotion

Social Bonding and Connecting

You got to have friends.



• Like and Admire

Cultural and Environmental Influences

Role Models

• TV

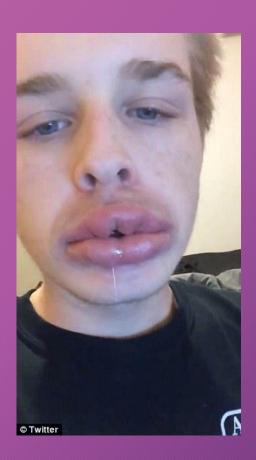
Social Media



Risk Taking

Kylie Jenner Challenge











Risk Taking



High Risk Apps

Omegle





Risky Business







Household Products

- Solvents
 - Brain Damage
 - Sudden Fatal Event

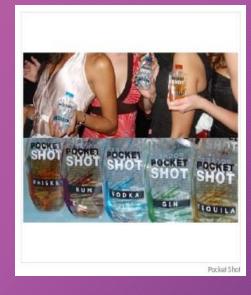


Alcohol: New Products

Alcohol treats

Pocket Shots

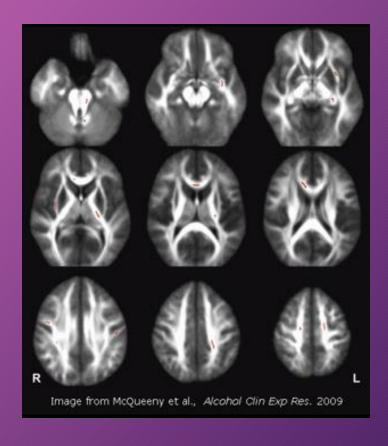






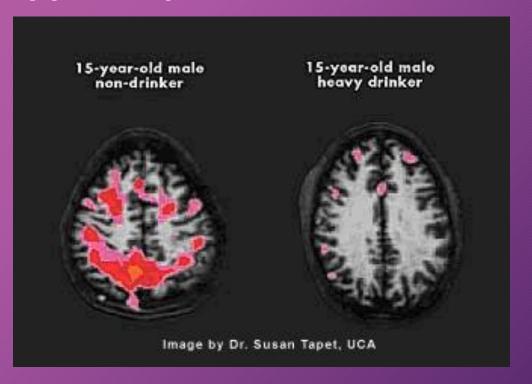
Long Term Outcomes of Underage Drinking

- 10% Loss of Volume in Prefrontal Cortex
 - Executive Function
 - Learning
 - Reasoning



Long Term Outcomes

- 10% Loss of Volume in Hippocampus
 - Memory
 - Motivation
 - Social Behaviors



Alcohol: the Costs

- 13 teens die each day in the US
- 600,000 HS and college students injured per year
- 70,000 alcohol-involved sexual assaults per year
- Drop outs/Flunk outs
- Unwanted pregnancies
- Addiction potential



Impulse Control

• PRDM2

Down regulated

Disrupts impulse control





New Products

Marijuana edibles







New Products: Dabbing

• Butane Hash Oil

• Amber, Shatter, Ear Wax





The Healthy Alternative







Devices



Alcohol and Drug Combinations

Robo-shots/Mucys

- Dextromethorphan
- Opioid cough suppressant
- Plus alcohol
- Rapid and powerful intoxication
- Motor control
- Impulse control
- Delusional

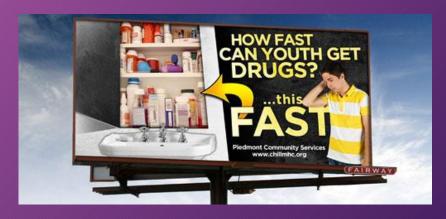


Medicine Cabinet

- Rx and OTC
 - Parents and Grandparents
 - Siblings

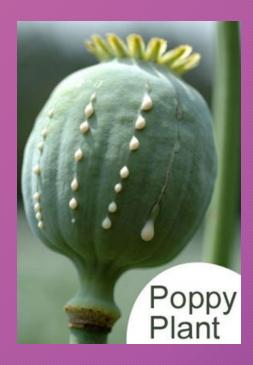






Heroin: Pharmacology

Source



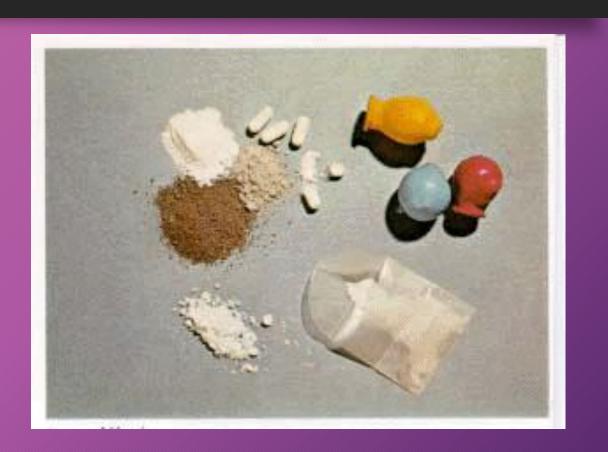




On the Street

• Price

• As low as \$12



Route of Administration

Routes of Administration

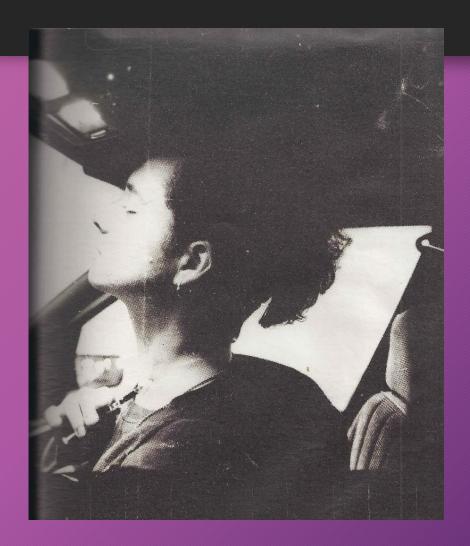
- Snorting
- Smoking
- InjectingIV, SC, IM







Route of Administration



Risk Factors

Addiction

Infection

Overdose







Heroin and other drugs

Heroin use is part of a larger substance abuse problem.

Nearly all people who used heroin also used at least 1 other drug.

Most used at least **3** other drugs.

Heroin is a highly addictive opioid drug with a high risk of overdose and death for users.

People who are addicted to...









are

2x

3x

15x

40x

...more likely to be addicted to heroin.

SOURCE: National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 2011-2013.

Opioid effects

- NOT better than other options
- Pain complex; physical, emotional, social, vocational
- Sleep
 - Only opioids: Decrease Pain, Reduce Anxiety, Induce Sleep, and Create Euphoria

By the Numbers

Drug Overdose fatalities in the US 152 per day 55,400 per year

Alcohol fatalities in the US. 241 per day 88,000 per year



Prom Night

• The Best of Times/The Worst of Times

Social event



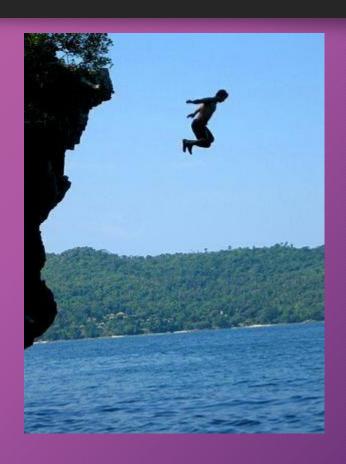


- The Bad News
- 300+ 63% no seat belt



High Risk

- Driving
- Swimming
- Falls
- Burns



The Cabin in the Woods

- Highest Risk for Females
 - Second Location
 - More bad outcomes



A Day at the Beach

- Spring, Summer, and Fall
- Open water drownings
- Male /Female

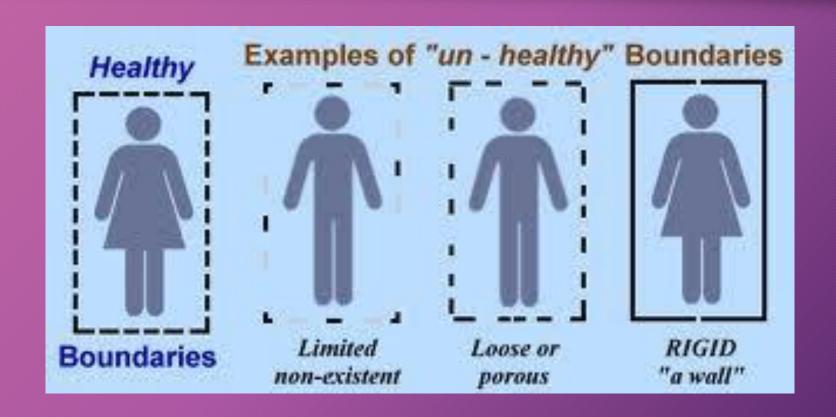


Healthy Options

- Evaluate Risk Spectrum
- Introduce Activities
- Role Model
- Create Opportunities



Boundaries



Boundaries

Negotiable

Curfew Sleepovers Concerts Peer Drivers Non-Negotiable

Drug and Alcohol Use Parental Contact

Transportation

Impaired Drivers

Effective Language for Risk Assessment

Immediate

Social/Emotional
Physical Appearance

Impact on Others

Consequences

Immediate

- Proportional
- Short term

No Add Ons



Effective Language

- The "If then" construct
 - Signifies accountability, not power
 - Has remindability built in
 - Not what we want, but what is necessary





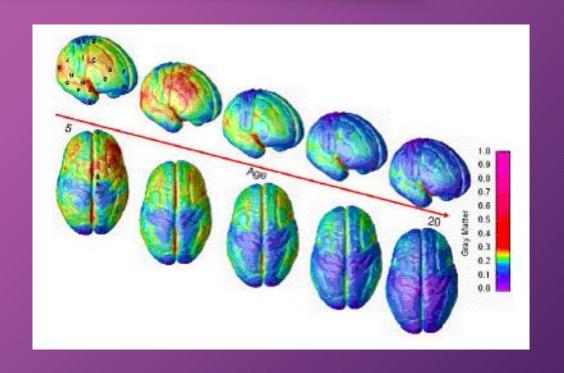
Why is this Brain at Risk?

A Work in Progress

Stages of Adolescent Development

Emerging Adult Brain

The Long and Winding Road



Wrap Up

- Validate Emotions
- Social Bonding
- Risk-Taking Opportunities
- Crisis Support
- Early Intervention

